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244

DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

SEAN MCGUIN  
KUDRANSKY  
-95-

McFARLANE

+fco







## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After Sara's disappearance, Jim frantically tries to track her down. When no leads pan out, he seeks help from an unwilling participant.

Eventually, a sworn foe points Jim in the right direction, and how he deals with the person responsible for Sara's vanishing act is not subtle.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**Sara Johnston** – When Jim woke from his coma (issue #185), Sara was the first person to greet him on the other side of the darkness. A woman of strong faith, Sara's connection to Jim will test her in ways she could never imagine.



**Clown** – A demon with close ties to the legacy of the Hellspawn, Clown's goal of controlling Jim Downing has continuously been jeopardized. But, ever the survivor, Clown seeks new avenues through which to manipulate his prize – Downing will not slip through his grasp so easily.

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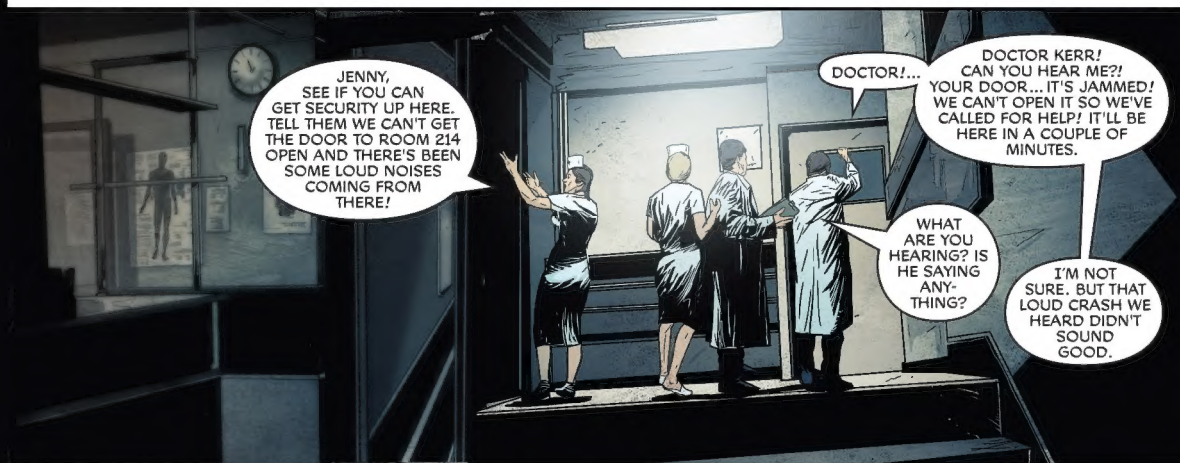
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**image**

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**SPAWN.COM**

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JENNY,  
SEE IF YOU CAN  
GET SECURITY UP HERE.  
TELL THEM WE CAN'T GET  
THE DOOR TO ROOM 214  
OPEN AND THERE'S BEEN  
SOME LOUD NOISES  
COMING FROM  
THERE!

DOCTOR!...

DOCTOR KERR!  
CAN YOU HEAR ME?  
YOUR DOOR... IT'S JAMMED!  
WE CAN'T OPEN IT SO WE'VE  
CALLED FOR HELP! IT'LL BE  
HERE IN A COUPLE OF  
MINUTES.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
HEARING? IS  
HE SAYING  
ANY-  
THING?

I'M NOT  
SURE, BUT THAT  
LOUD CRASH WE  
HEARD DIDN'T  
SOUND  
GOOD.



YOU'VE  
GOT FIVE  
SECONDS!

OKAY!...  
OKAY.

I SAID  
I'D TELL  
YOU!

THREE  
SECONDS.



THE  
'BLACK.'  
I TOOK HER  
INTO THE  
'BLACK.'

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THAT IS AND I  
DON'T CARE! WE'RE  
GOING THERE AND WE'RE  
BRINGING SARA BACK.  
UNHARMED!

I CAN'T...

NOT IN MY  
CONDITION! I NEED  
MY POWERS TO GET  
THERE, BUT YOU TOOK  
THOSE FROM ME!\*  
SO I COULDN'T GO  
THERE EVEN IF I  
WANTED!

THEN  
WHERE IS IT?  
THE 'BLACK'...  
HOW DO I GET  
THERE?



YOU'RE  
KIDDING ME,  
RIGHT?

I DON'T  
KID.

YOU'VE  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
THERE...

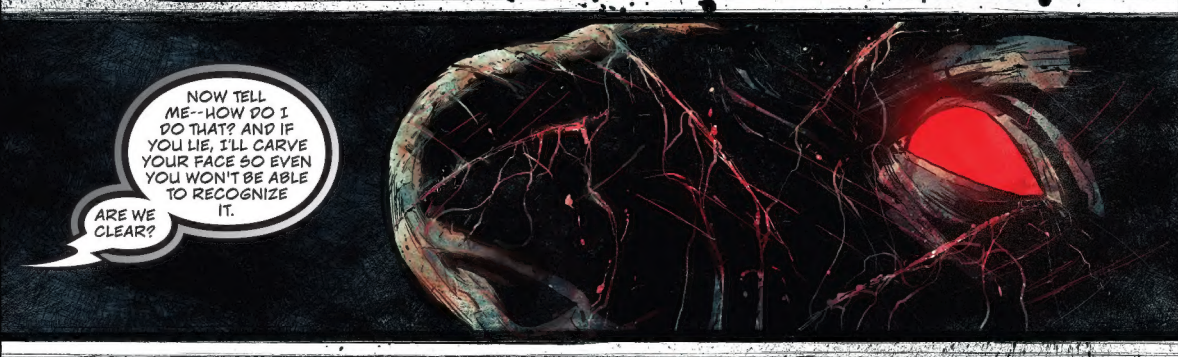
HUNDREDS  
OF TIMES! IT'S THE SPACE  
BETWEEN HERE AND THE SHADOWS  
YOU TRANSPORT IN. EVERY TIME  
YOU'VE TELEPORTED FROM ONE PLACE  
TO ANOTHER USING THE SHADOWS,  
YOU WENT THERE... FOR A BRIEF  
SECOND EACH TIME. YOU JUST  
NEVER NOTICED!





SO, GO  
AHEAD--CUT  
ME ALL YOU WANT.  
IT WON'T CHANGE  
A DAMN THING!  
YOU WANT SARA?  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
GET HER...  
NOT ME!

THAT'S  
MY  
PLAN.




NOW TELL  
ME--HOW DO I  
DO THAT? AND IF  
YOU LIE, I'LL CARVE  
YOUR FACE SO EVEN  
YOU WON'T BE ABLE  
TO RECOGNIZE  
IT.

ARE WE  
CLEAR?



WE'RE  
CLEAR.

GOOD!  
BECAUSE IN CASE  
YOU'RE TOO THICK  
TO NOTICE...YOU'RE HUMAN!  
NINETY-FIVE PERCENT ANYWAY.  
WHICH MEANS I CAN HURT YOU.  
REAL BAD IF I WANT. SO YOU'RE  
GOING TO WALK ME THROUGH  
HOW I GET TO SARA AND  
YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT  
BEFORE SECURITY  
KNOCKS DOWN  
THAT DOOR.



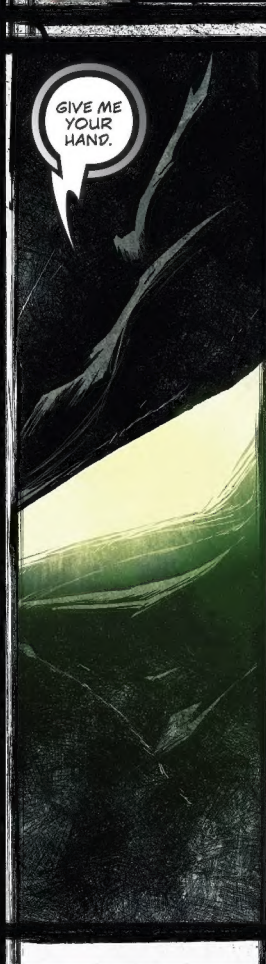
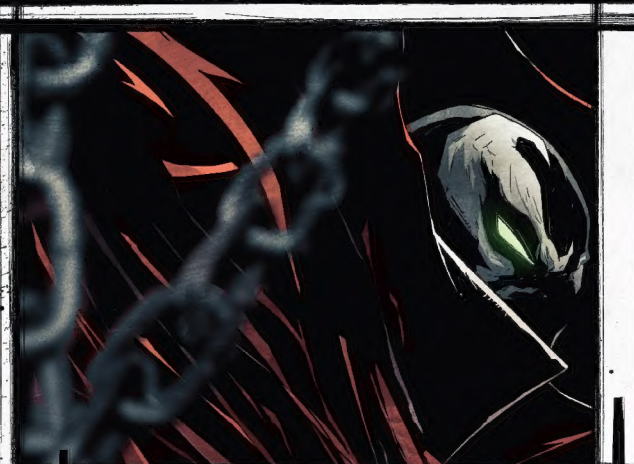
THEN YOU'RE  
GOING TO TELL ME,  
WHY YOU TOOK HER FROM  
THAT ELEVATOR, AND IF YOU  
HURT HER, BECAUSE IF YOU  
DID...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU  
KNOW EVERY POSSIBLE  
PAIN A HUMAN  
CAN FEEL!



NOW  
TALK.



Moments later.





# SNAP

AAARRRRR

YOU EVER  
COME  
NEAR SARA  
AGAIN...

YOU'RE  
DEAD.

DOCTOR  
KERR?! OH  
MY GOD!  
YOUR  
FACE...!

SLAM

I...  
MY ARM...  
I THINK... IT'S  
BROKEN.

WHAT  
HAPPENED?

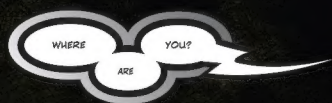
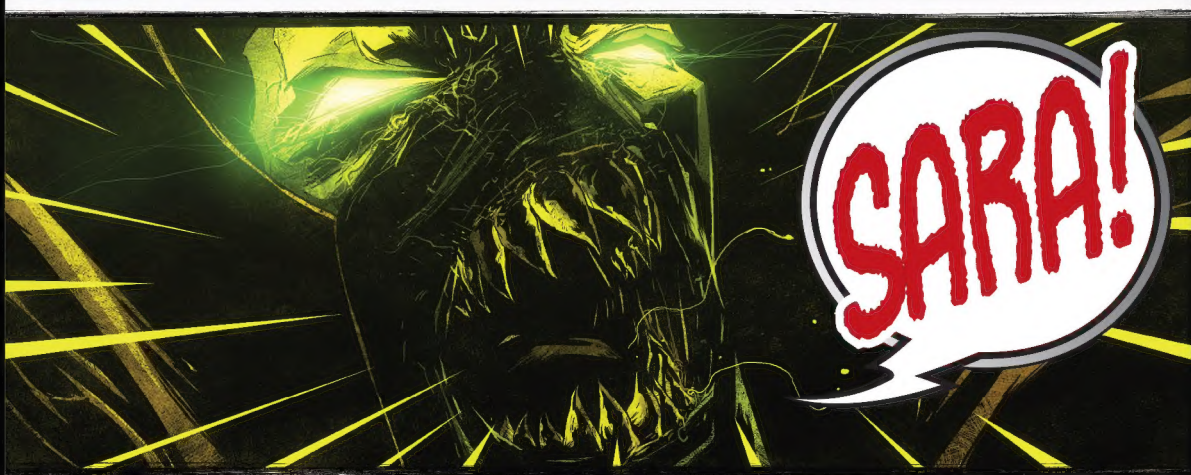
I LOST  
MY BALANCE...  
HIT MY HEAD ON  
THE GLASS  
CABINET.

DON'T  
MOVE IT. WE  
NEED TO GET  
YOU TO EMERGENCY  
AND TAKE SOME  
X-RAYS. SOMEONE  
GRAB A WHEEL-  
CHAIR!

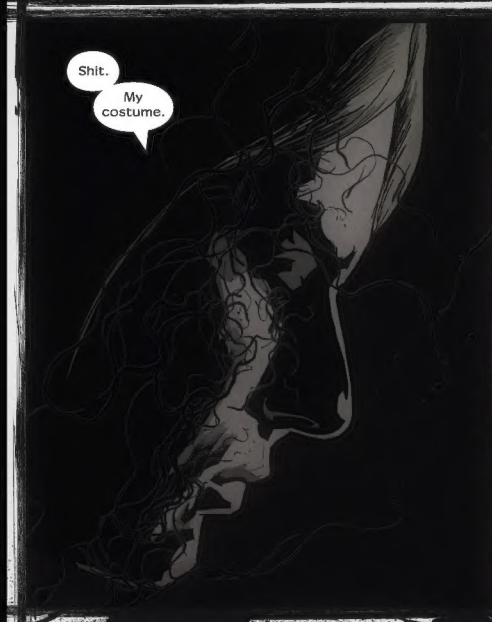




Hours later.











WHAT...  
ARE YOU  
DOING...  
HERE?

I'M  
TAKING YOU  
HOME.  
WHERE YOU'LL  
BE SAFE  
AGAIN.

I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE...  
ONE OF *THEM*.  
YOU LOOKED LIKE  
THEM FOR A  
MOMENT.

SHHHHHH,  
YOU'RE STILL IN  
SHOCK. I'VE  
GOT YOU.

TIED.  
I'M SO TIRED.  
COULDN'T  
SLEEP.

NOT WITH  
ALL OF THEM STILL  
OUT THERE. BUT  
I KNEW YOU... WERE  
DIFFERENT, BECAUSE  
YOUR BRIGHT EYES  
WERE SO... SO...



JIM...  
**NO!**  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING?! WE CAN'T  
GO OUT THERE!  
**THEY'RE  
WAITING!**

YOUR  
EYES! THEY  
KNOW YOU'RE  
HERE NOW! THEY  
KNOW WE WANT  
TO LEAVE!!

WHO  
KNOWS?



IT'S YOUR  
EYES! THEY'RE  
DRAWING THEM  
TO US!  
DON'T YOU  
GET IT?!

SARA! CALM  
DOWN, PLEASE.  
WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
WHO WON'T LET  
US LEAVE?

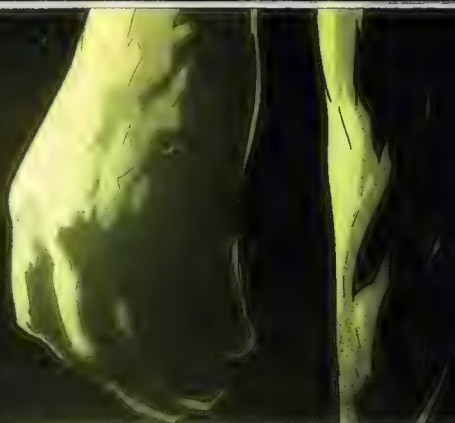


**THEM!**

THEY'RE  
HERE!...  
NO...oh,  
GOD...

DON'T  
LET THEM...  
TOUCH...  
ME...

NOT  
AGAIN!  
NOT...  
AGAIN.



JIM...

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
GET US  
KILLED!

YOU  
HAVE TO  
SHUT YOUR  
EYES!

SARA, YOU  
NEED TO LISTEN  
TO ME AND DO  
EXACTLY WHAT  
I SAY!

WE HAVE  
TO MOVE  
CLOSER TO  
WHERE I ENTERED  
THIS PLACE.  
BUT I NEED  
A CLEAR PATH  
FIRST.

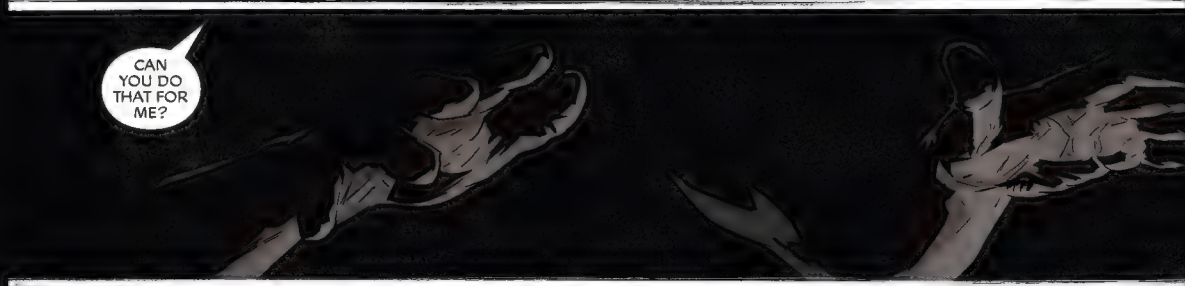






AND I  
CAN'T DO THAT  
WITH YOU BY MY  
SIDE. THERE'S TOO  
MANY OF THEM  
AND I'M AFRAID  
I MIGHT HURT  
YOU TOO.

SO YOU NEED  
TO SIT DOWN,  
CLOSE YOUR YOUR  
EYES, AND DON'T MOVE.  
NO MATTER WHAT YOU  
HEAR. DON'T OPEN  
YOUR EYES. I'M GOING  
TO LEAD THEM AWAY  
FROM HERE. I'LL BE  
BACK...WHEN  
I'M DONE.



CAN  
YOU DO  
THAT FOR  
ME?



I...

I THINK  
SO.

GOOD.

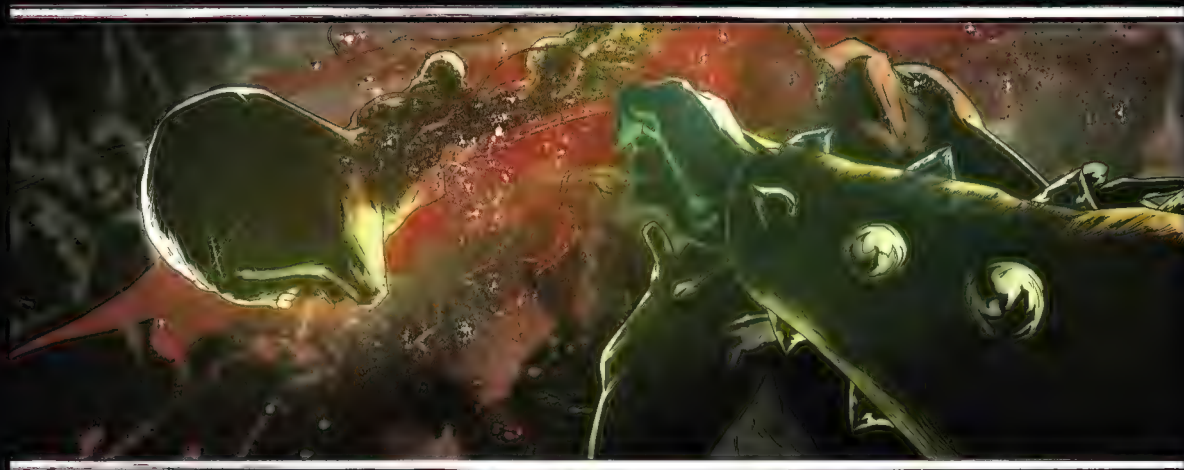
WHAT  
IF YOU...  
DON'T COME  
BACK?

I'M  
COMING  
BACK.



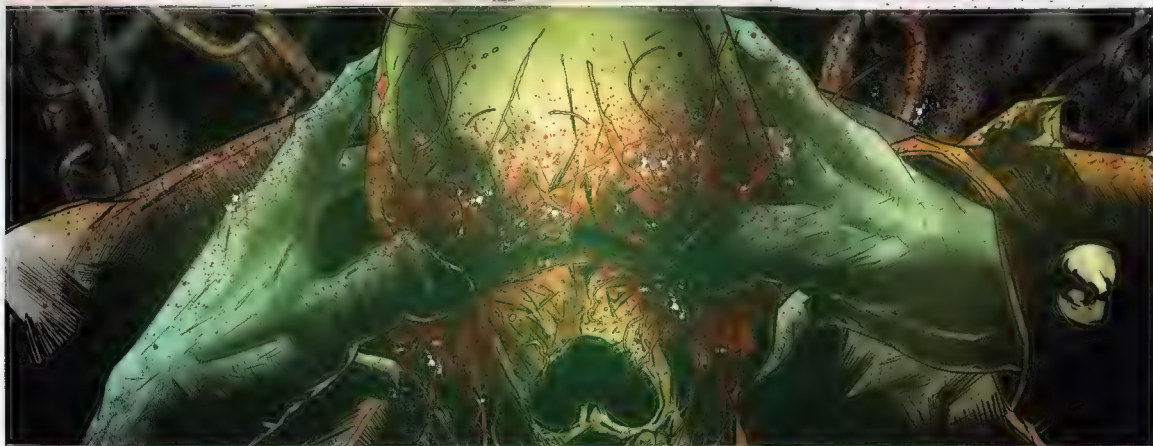
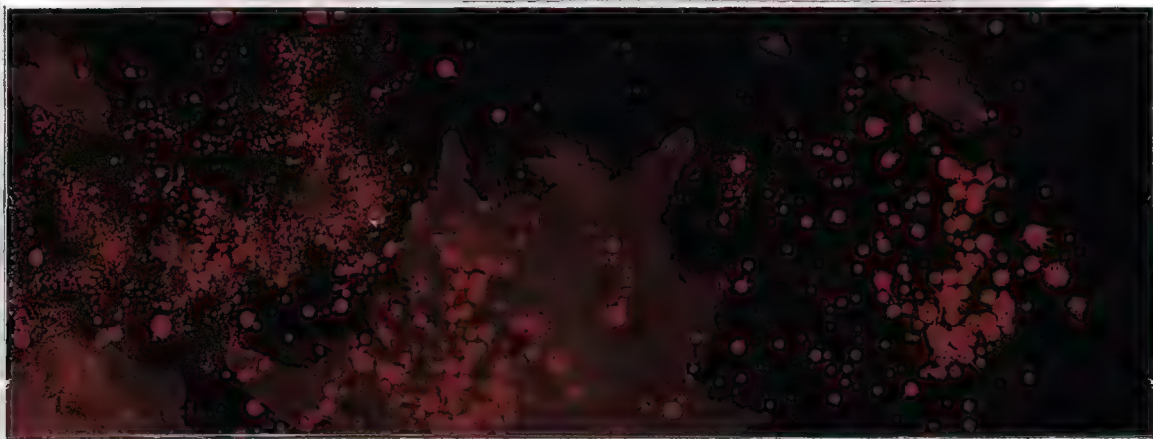






tch tch tch  
Yeeorrrrrkkkkcktcckk  
tch t









SARA.  
REACH  
OUT YOUR  
HAND AND TAKE  
MINE... BUT DON'T  
OPEN YOUR EYES!  
SQUEEZE THEM  
SHUT AS HARD AS  
YOU CAN!

THEY'RE  
STILL HERE--  
AREN'T THEY?!  
I HEAR THEM!  
THEY'RE STILL  
HERE!

OKAY...  
NOW I'M GOING  
TO LET GO FOR  
A SECOND. YOU'RE  
GOING TO FEEL SOME-  
THING. BUT KEEP YOUR  
EYES CLOSED. NO  
MATTER WHAT  
HAPPENS... DON'T  
LOOK!



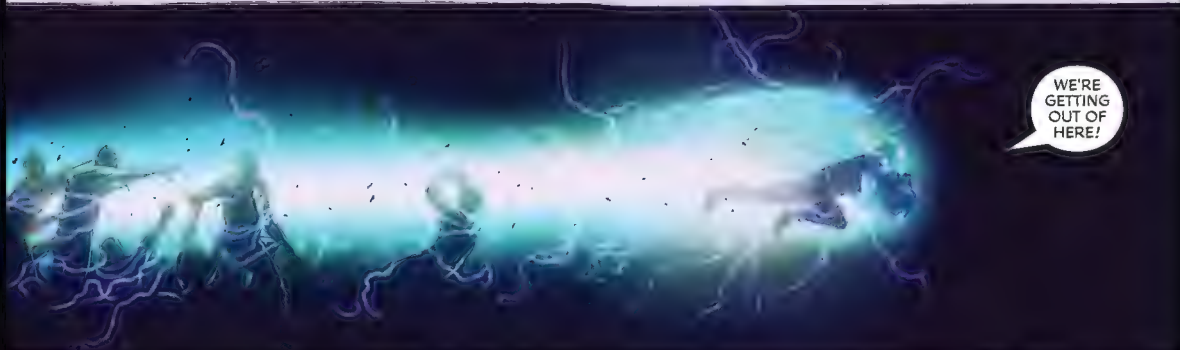
nnktctctkkkkktchkkkkkkkkkkkkktctektkk





GET  
READY,  
SARA...





WE'RE  
GETTING  
OUT OF  
HERE!



YOU'RE  
DOING  
GREAT. BUT  
THERE'S  
ONE MORE  
THING...

YOU'RE  
GOING TO FEEL  
A SENSATION. OVER  
YOUR ENTIRE BODY.  
DON'T BE ALARMED...  
IT'LL ONLY LAST A  
FEW SECONDS.

I'M  
GOING TO  
COUNT TO  
THREE. THEN  
IT'LL BE  
OVER.



ONE.

TWO.













NOT  
EVER  
AGAIN.







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE